



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

In This Issue

- [Stating the Obvious](#)
- [Buttery Blogs](#)
- [5th Grade Poster Contest](#)
- [Web Presents](#)
- [Spotlight](#)
- [Sustainable Grants](#)
- [USGBC Illinois: Emerald Awards](#)
- [Green Ribbon Schools](#)
- [Miscellaneous Events](#)
- [About this Newsletter](#)

Quick Links

Green.Illinois.Gov

Illinois.gov/Gov

[2011 Sustainable Universities and Colleges Symposium](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Stating the Obvious

On Wednesday, February 1st, Governor Quinn addressed the General Assembly in his annual State of the State Address. Critics will likely parse each word of his prepared remarks for evidence of his legislative agenda for the coming year. Each sentence is a delicate vessel of the administration's policies as politicians search for embedded meaning. The public will then guzzle this analysis faster than their morning coffee before discarding the grounds into the purgatory of yesterday's news cycle.

The State of the State is a reminder that we must balance two conflicting impulses to advance productive sustainability policy in Illinois.

One is the grassroots energy to energetically advance our efforts and accept nothing short of clear, substantive change. The other is too soberly translate our environmental message into a concise and coherent message that can be readily communicated across Illinois.

Words may be fleeting and often less satisfying than measurable action, but they have the unique ability to navigate political obstacles and permeate opponent's bubbles. We may grow frustrated condensing our energy and activism into concise speech but this exercise will ultimately pay dividends as we see unlikely surrogates trumpeting our talking points and transmitting our message from Cairo to Rockford. So speak up and start stating the obvious about our environment; even if you're spewing hot air, it's harmless.



Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please reply to this email. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit Green.illinois.gov

Buttery Blogs...



From Inhabitat.com



Massive 1,000 LB Butter Sculpture Will Power Pennsylvania Farm for Three Days

by Brit Liggett, 01/24/12

filed under: News, Recycling / Compost, Renewable Energy



We're always looking to grease up our newsletter with innovative sustainability initiatives from around the country and in this issue we highlight the butter sculpture featured in this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show. Click on the link above for more!

"The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations."

- Illinois Constitution, Article XI



2012 Fifth Grade National Poster Contest

"Bicycling takes me places"

Active Transportation Alliance and League of Illinois Bicyclists are partnering with Saris Cycling once again to promote and judge the 2012 Fifth Grade National Poster Contest. They are asking 5th grade students throughout the State of Illinois to develop and submit posters centered on the theme "Bicycling takes me places."

The **deadline** to enter is **March 1st, 2012**

For more information and for entry forms, visit [this link](#)

Web Presents:

Green.Illinois.gov Launches Sustainable Transportation Page

Green.Illinois.gov has launched a new Sustainable Transportation page as a vehicle to drive conversation forward about the exciting initiatives coming out of this administration. Please peruse this page and its subsections and send us your feedback. Thanks!

Sustainable Transportation



Sustainable Transportation

Governor Quinn's is committed to green transportation initiatives that sustain our environment while creating opportunities for economic growth and employment across the State of Illinois. The administration has a keen understanding of the nexus between the environmental and state economic health and rigorously pursues programs that produce a leaner, greener Land of Lincoln.

Achieving this sustainable transportation objective requires a constant reevaluation of State operations and a willingness to invest in innovative technologies that can drive Illinois into the 21st century. On **November 15th, 2011**, Quinn announced that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has been awarded a \$5 million federal grant to buy up to 10 hybrid buses for Illinois communities as part of the governor's initiative to expand green transportation throughout the state.

In **October 2011**, the State finalized and implemented a contract with the carsharing company, Zipcar, to provide employees a sustainable and affordable means of commuting for official business. The contract will ultimately allow the State to replace fleet cars with vehicles that meet strict fuel economy and emissions standards.

Finally, in collaboration with the General Assembly and State agencies, Governor Quinn has worked to bring electric vehicle technology to Illinois. Read more about the state's progress on electric vehicle infrastructure on our ["Electric Vehicle Initiatives" page](#).



Spotlight

Dwight Correctional Center “Planting for the Future”

Department of Corrections Program Sprouts Community, Revenue

Dwight Correctional Center launched the “Planting for the Future” program on August 1st, 2011. The program included the planting of 100 donated trees to the landscape, which currently boasts Civil War era trees. In another budget neutral move trees that are no longer living have been cut down and shredded to be used as mulch for the planting of these new trees.

“This program will help keep inmates and staff cooler because most buildings at Dwight are not air-conditioned, will benefit the environment, create homes for wildlife, and have a calming effect on the inmates. Maintaining the landscape just seems like the right thing to do,” said Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Warden Sheryl Thompson.

Dwight Correctional Center is planning to continue the project this year with a goal of planting 50 to 100 trees. If you would like more information or to donate to the “Planting for the Future” tree campaign, please contact my office, Chief Jon Luchsinger, 815-584-2806 ext. 2213 or Jon.Luchsinger@doc.illinois.gov. IDOC operates 27 prisons throughout Illinois in addition to work camps, boot camps and adult transition centers. The agency is committed to operating a safe and secure prison system as well as enhancing prison-based treatment, prevention programs and the successful reentry of inmates into society which will lead to lowering recidivism rates.

U Illinois Chicago Approves Student Sustainability Fee

The University of Illinois Chicago is once again demonstrating its commitment to sustainability. At its January 19th meeting, the University’s Board of Trustees approved a **\$4.00/semester Campus Sustainability Fee**. This added revenue will dramatically improve the university’s ability to advance green initiatives within the classroom and across the campus. The Board’s approval follows a campus referendum indicating widespread support for the measure among the student body.

Click [here](#) to read the minutes from the January 19th meeting announcing the new fee.



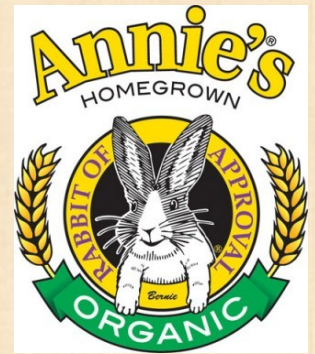
Sustainable Grants

1) Annie's: Grants for Gardens

Annie's, Inc. is a natural and organic food company that makes great-tasting products in large packaged food categories. Annie's is offering small grants to community gardens, school gardens and other educational programs that connect children directly to real food. These funds can be used to buy gardening tools, seeds or other needed supplies.

Awards of up to \$250 are available. Eligible entities include schools and nonprofit organizations that focus on school and community gardens or sustainable agriculture.

Please contact Annie's for more information and to apply for this funding: <http://www.annies.com/grants>



2) American Water Accepting Applications for 2012 Environmental Grant Program

Grants are available for community-based environmental projects in American Water's service area that improve, restore, or protect the watersheds, surface water, and/or groundwater supplies through partnerships...

Click [here](#) for the 2012 Program Brochure.

3) TogetherGreen Accepting Applications for Conservation Fellowships and Innovation Grants

Conservation Fellowship grants of \$10,000 and Innovation grants of up to \$80,000 will be awarded to nonprofits and National Audubon Society organizations working to support conservation action in their communities....

<http://www.togethergreen.org>

4) It's all about the fruits and Veggies program

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/its-all-about-fruit-and-veggies>

Jamba Juice and the National Gardening Association's KidsGardening are offering the It's All About the Fruits and Veggies grant program to provide schools with gardening supplies, curriculum materials, and plants to help create engaging nutrition and gardening experiences. **February 15, 2012 is the deadline.**

5) Ultimate Cool School Science Day Sweepstakes

http://www.siemensscienceday.com/enter_sweepstakes.cfm

Elementary school educators (K-6) are encouraged to enter the Ultimate Cool School Science Day Sweepstakes, sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and Discovery Education. Winning teachers will receive an assembly for his or her school that underscores the importance of science literacy and the need for science resources in schools.

6) Bikes Belong Coalition

The Bikes Belong Grant Program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives.

[Click here](#) to view a brochure highlighting our Grant Program. [Click here](#) to visit the Bikes Belong site

emerald awards

THE 7TH ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM OF THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL – ILLINOIS CHAPTER

In celebration of its 10th Anniversary in 2012, the U.S. Green Building Council-Illinois Chapter is proud to announce the inaugural Emerald Awards to recognize outstanding individuals, organizations and projects from across Illinois that are advancing both buildings and communities that are sustainable, prosperous and healthy. Awards will be presented at USGBC-Illinois' 10th anniversary fundraiser, Limelight, Thursday May 10, at the Green Exchange's Greenhouse Loft.

These awards are intended to recognize individuals and/or organizations in Illinois and do not need to be USGBC – Illinois Chapter or USGBC members. Please keep in consideration that Emerald Awardees can include, but are not limited to, architects, design engineers, contractors, developers, design teams, schools, governmental and non-profit organizations, and beyond.

Please send all nominations to emeraldawards@usgbcillinois.org no later than noon on Friday, February 24, 2012. Winners will be announced on March 8, 2012. Nomination forms can be found on the Chapter website by following [this link](#), or can be requested at the email address above. For more information please contact:

Pam Jackson, Manager of Marketing and Programs, at 312.245.8300, ext. 204, or pjackson@usgbc-illinois.org.



More information available at [this link](#)

Green Ribbon Schools



On January 9th, 2012, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) launched the first Illinois Green Ribbon Schools awards program, recognizing schools that are leading the way to promote sustainability and environmental education.

Illinois joins 32 other states participating in the pilot federal Green Ribbon Schools award program to commend the most green and healthy schools in the nation. In Governor announcing the program's extension into Illinois, Governor Quinn credited the collaborative efforts of various agencies including the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, and ISBE.

Applications for nominating Illinois schools can be found on the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools page at http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon. Illinois will announce its nominees in March. Following the U.S. Department of Education's announcement of winners in April 2012, there will be an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., in late May 2012. The national ceremony will be followed by local ceremonies at each of the winning schools in fall 2012. For more information about the federal Green Ribbon Schools program, visit the [Green Ribbon Schools page](#) of the U.S. Department of Education.

A full press release is available [here](#). Visit [ISBE's site](#) for more information.

Miscellaneous Events

- 1) **Winter Wonderland Energy Savings Workshop**
February 25, 2012, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy, Community Room
2520 S. Western Ave. , Chicago, IL—

Join Amy and her C3 team to hear about actions you can take to not only help the environment but also save money. Workshop topics include properly caring for outdoors plants; improving your snow salting techniques; installing high efficiency showerheads; replacing old light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs; and changing furnace filters.

Register by emailing winterenergyc3@gmail.com

- 2) **[Blue Cart Recycling Expansion Community Meetings](#)**
Four scheduled dates—Visit this [link](#) for specifics

Blue Cart Recycling is expanding this spring in parts of the 26th and 32nd wards. Community meetings will be held in each of the wards to provide residents with additional information. [Visit this news release to see the expansion map.](#)

- 3) **[Village of Homer Glen Earth Day~Arbor Day](#)**
May 19th, 2012, All Day
The Konow Farm, near 167th St. & Cedar Road.


The Earth Day~Arbor Day Committee is seeking exhibitors and demonstrators to provide education regarding the role that natural resources play in sustaining a high quality of life in the community and to encourage participation in natural resource protection and restoration efforts. Participants that showcase activities which connect children and adults with nature and those that use natural products are highly encouraged.



Gabe Sulkes
James H. Dunn Memorial Fellow
Policy-Sustainability and Energy
Office of the Governor
JRTC | 100 W. Randolph | Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601-3112
Phone 312.814.9799
Fax 312.814.52714

This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Gabriel.Sulkes@illinois.gov.

Find us on Facebook 



Governor Pat Quinn honors state agencies and public institutions at the 2011 GGCC Green Governments Awards ceremony on December 17th, 2011 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield.